IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 7401 of 2001

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE A.M.KAPADIA

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : YES

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the Civil Judge? : NO

JAGDISH KUMAR ALIAS JAGO DHIRAJLAL SHAH

Versus

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Appearance:

1. Special Civil Application No. 7401 of 2001

MS DR KACHHAVAH for Petitioner No. 1

MR SS PATEL AGP for Respondents No. 1-3

CORAM : MR.JUSTICE A.M.KAPADIA

Date of decision: 23/10/2001

ORAL JUDGEMENT

1. In exercise of powers under Section 3 (2) of the Gujarat Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act, 1985 ('the Act' for short), Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad City, Ahmedabad, vide order dated April 9, 2001, Annexure

A to the petition, detained the petitioner detenu.

2. The averments made in the petition and the grounds of detention manifest that the detaining authority has considered the petitioner as a dangerous person within the meaning of section 2 (c) of the Act as four offences under Chapter XVII of the Indian Penal Code have been registered against the petitioner which are pending investigation and statements of two anonymous witnesses in unregistered cases have been recorded and, therefore, according to the detaining authority the activities of the petitioner are prejudicial to the maintenance of public order and hence powers under Section 9 (2) of the Act are exercised by the detaining authority by not disclosing the identity of the witnesses while passing the order of detention and detained the petitioenr - detenu.

3. By filing this petition under Article 226 of the Constitution, the petitioner has assailed the impugned order of detention on various grounds and prayed to issue a writ of habeas corpus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction quashing the impugned order of detention and setting him at liberty forthwith.

4. Though the petitioner has challenged the order of detention on various grounds, Ms. Kachhavah, learned advocate for the petitioner has restricted her arguments to the effect that subjective satisfaction recorded by the detaining authority cannot be considered as genuine as there was no enough material necessitating the detention of a person in custody. The detaining authority has observed in his order that the petitioner would indulge in the same activities after being released on bail and, therefore, it has become necessary to detain him. On this sole ground the order of detention deserves to be quashed and set aside.

5. Mr. S.S. Patel, learned AGP has appeared on behalf of the respondents and opposed the petition by making oral submissions. He, however, urged to pass appropriate order in light of the settled principles enunciated by the Supreme Court as well as this Court in this regard.

6. I have considered the submissions advanced by the learned advocates appearing for the parties. I have also perused the averments made in the petition as well as the documents annexed therewith and the impugned order.

7. A similar question arose before the Hon'ble

Supreme Court in the case of Abdul Sathar Ibrahim Manik v. Union of India, AIR 1991 SC 2261 in which it has been held that there must be enough material necessitating the detention of a person in custody. If there is possibility of his being released on bail and on being so released, he is likely to indulge in prejudicial activities, then there must be compelling reason to pass detention order.

8. A similar view is also expressed by the Supreme Court in the case of Amritlal v. Union Government, 2000 SCW 4203. In the said case it has been observed that there must be cogent material before the officer passing the detention order that the detenu is likely to be released on bail. The inference must be drawn from the available material on record and must not be the ipsi dixit of the officer passing the order of detention. Likelihood of detenu's moving an application for bail is not a cogent material and detention order based on such material is liable to be quashed. The reasoning that there is "likelihood to be released on bail" is different from "likelihood of his moving an application for bail".

9. Applying the aforesaid principles laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to the facts of the present case, in the instant case also the detaining authority has considered only the aspect of petitioner being released on bail and thereafter to indulge in similar activity but on what basis the detaining authority has come to the conclusion that the petitioner would continue to indulge in similar activities is not mentioned in the order of detention. Therefore, order of detention stands vitiated and the petition deserves to be allowed on this ground alone.

10. For the foregoing reasons, the petition succeeds and accordingly it is allowed. The impugned order of detention passed against the petitioner detenu is hereby quashed and set aside. The detenu is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith if not required in connection with any other case. Rule is made absolute. No order as to costs. Direct service is permitted.

(A. M. Kapadia, J.)

(karan)